

Remarks

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 10 is presently withdrawn from consideration. Claim 3 has been amended to correct an informality. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to further describe the coupling relationship between a biasing transistor of a first circuit portion and a biasing transistor of a second circuit portion. Support for these claim amendments may be found, for example, at paragraphs [0022]-[0026] of the specification, and in Figs. 2A and 2B. Since the “coupling” feature of Claims 1 and 9 has previously been claimed, searched, and examined, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present claim amendments to Claims 1 and 9 remain within the scope of all previous prior art searches and examinations, and as such, do not constitute new matter requiring additional searching. Accordingly, the Applicants requests that these amendments be entered into the Official Record.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Applicant acknowledges the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated under U.S. Patent No. 5,396,131 to Miki et al., hereinafter referred to as “Miki”. Nonetheless, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-9 are fully patentable over the Miki for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A switch circuit comprising:
a first circuit portion corresponding to a first input port;
a second circuit portion corresponding to a second input port; and
an output port,
wherein each of the first and second circuit portions include at least one first transistor providing a portion of an isolation channel, at least one second transistor providing a portion of a transmit channel, and at least two third transistors for providing a control bias for selecting either the transmit channel or the isolation channel; and

wherein each third transistor of the first circuit portion is coupled at its base to a base of a corresponding third transistor of the second circuit portion, and to a control voltage source. (emphasis added).

As emphasized above, Claim 1 is directed to a switch circuit wherein each biasing transistor of the first circuit portion is coupled at its base to a base of a corresponding biasing transistor of the second circuit portion, and to a control voltage source. As explained in the specification, such coupling allows a control voltage source to control the voltage applied to a bias transistor from each circuit portion, thereby permitting a signal transmitted from the first input port to appear at the output port, while simultaneously isolating a signal transmitted from the second input port, and vice versa. This simultaneous transmitting/isolation provides the switching function of the switch circuit.

Miki, to the contrary, is directed to a high speed A/D converter. (see Abstract of Miki). The high speed A/D converter of Miki comprises a differential amplifier circuit for comparing an applied analog input voltage difference and an applied reference voltage difference. As illustrated in Fig. 10 of Miki, the differential amplifier circuit 400e fails to disclose switching functionality, including a biasing transistor (305, 306) from a first circuit portion (401) being coupled at its base to a base of a corresponding biasing transistor from a second circuit portion (402), and to a voltage source. Instead, Miki discloses the biasing transistors of each circuit portion being coupled to each other and to a respective constant voltage source (309). (see Fig. 10 of Miki). As a result, voltage applied to a biasing transistor (e.g., 305) in a first circuit portion (e.g., 401) does nothing to bias the second circuit portion (e.g., 402).

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, and Claims 3, 4, and 7-9 which recite similar features, are fully patentable over the Miki, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103

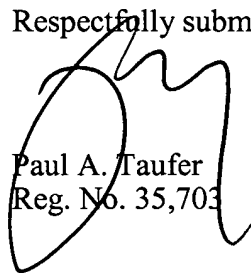
The Applicant acknowledges the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Miki in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,798,376 to Limberg, hereinafter "Limberg". Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. Thus, for at least those reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, the Applicant submits that Claim 2 is fully patentable over Miki in view of Limberg, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this §103 grounds of rejection.

The Applicant acknowledges the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Miki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,460,873 to Hester, hereinafter "Hester". Claim 5 is dependent off of Claim 1. Thus, for at least those reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, the Applicant submits that Claim 5 is fully patentable over Miki in view of Hester, and respectfully requests withdrawal of this §103 grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including Claims 1-5 and 7-9, is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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